

REMARKS

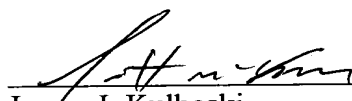
Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 is pending in the present Application. Claims 2-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Specification has been amended to include cross reference to related Applications. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced via this Amendment.

In view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this Application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)

Scott A. McKeown  
Registration No. 42,866